

NITTANY LIONS LEAD ECAC WOMEN'S TRACK

By **Matthew Hersh**

May 17, 1987

With first-place finishes in the javelin and the heptathlon, Penn State jumped out to an early lead on the second day of the three-day Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference women's Division I outdoor track and field championships yesterday at George Mason.

After seven events, the Nittany Lions, with an outstanding performance from versatile Pam Connell, held first place with 33 points, followed by Rutgers (26), Princeton (18) and George Mason (18).

Penn State's Martina Kondas won the javelin throw (162-6), outdistancing Elinor Sadin of Syracuse by more than six feet.

Connell scored 5,116 points to win the heptathlon by 470 points, but fell short of the NCAA championships standard of 5,350 points. She also competed in three other events, including the 4x100 relay. That team won its heat in 47.17 seconds. In all, Connell, who also competed in the long jump and the 400-meter hurdles, ran six events.

While Connell surprised many, George Mason's Nena Gage and Terri Dendy didn't. Gage, who won the triple jump at last year's ECAC meet, qualified for the NCAA championships, to be held in Baton Rouge, La., June 3, by winning the long jump with a 20 feet 9 1/4 inches effort. She also qualified for the ECAC finals in the 100- and 200- meter dashes.

Dendy also was impressive. A double winner last year, she advanced to the finals of the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes, finishing first in each heat.

Other final winners were: Desiree Scott, Rutgers, in the 5,000 meters (16:30.86); Charlene Burnstrom, West Virginia and a graduate of Yorktown High School, in the 10,000 meters (35:00.05); Felicia Hodges, Temple, in the high jump (5-10); and Debbie St. Phard, Princeton, in the shot put (51-8 1/2).

In Old Westbury, N.Y., sophomore Carol Womack's first-place finish in the 800 meters highlighted a fine showing by the Navy women's team at the ECAC Division II championships.

Womack ran 2:08.84 to earn one of two citations as Outstanding Meet Performer. She also ran a leg on the Midshipmen's champion distance medley relay team, which was timed in 12:45.21. Her teammates in the relay were freshmen Maria Filonczuk and Tracey Fuchs and senior Mary Balch.

As a team, Navy finished third with 119 points, behind champion New York Tech (129) and Southern (123).